

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11545 271500Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /071 W

----- 016358

R 271406Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6482

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

FASS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PONS EG

SUBJ: EGYPT AIR HIJACKING

1. EMBASSY LOCATED TWO OTHER AMERICAN ON HIJACKED PLANE,
DR. AND MRS. ARNOLD GREENE OF 16946 BURBANK BLVD,
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA, AND POLCOUNS DEBRIEFED
THEM AUGUST 26. GREENES SAT ABOUT MID-WAY IN PLANE ON
RIGHT AND APPEARED TO BE FAIRLY ALERT OBSERVERS. SINCE
GREENES ARE JEWISH THEY HAD SPECIAL APPREHENSIONS AND IN
THEIR MINDS THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT HIJACKING WAS REAL THING.
THEY SAID STEWARDESS HAD EXHIBITED SPECIAL CONCERN FOR
THEM AS AMERICANS AND REPEATELY TOLD THEM TO TELL HIJACKERS
THEY WERE ENGLISH, BUT THEY WERE NEVER ASKED. GREENES HAD
HEARD FROM AOTHER PASSENGER THAT HIJACKERS HAD
GIVEN BAG CONTAINING WEAPONS TO NINE-YEAR OLD BOY
TO CARRY ON PLANE. PLANE HAD NOT BEEN SURROUNDED BY
EQUIPMENT , BUT THEY OBSERVED THAT RUNWAYS HAD BEEN BLOCKED
WITH TRUCKS. LEADER OF HIJACKERS , THEY SAID, HAD SHORT
TEMPER AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SHOUTED AND SLAPPED AND THREW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11545 271500Z

DOWN ONE MALE PASSENGER. THE JAPANESE TOUR

GROUP THEY FELT BEHAVED LIKE "IDIOTS" WITH LOTS OF SMILING AND EVEN SOME HORSEPLAY. THEY SAID PASSENGERS SAT IN VIRTUAL SILENCE FOR ENTIRE ORDEAL ON GROUND AT LUXOR AND WERE GIVEN NO INFO ABOUT STATEOF NEGOTIATIONS. GREENE DESCRIBED HIJACKERS AND "REAL AMATEURS".

2. DR. GREENE HAD SEEN LEADER OF HIJACKERS SLUGGED BY "MECHANIC " AND TURNED AROUND TO SEE ANOTHER " MECHANIC" ATTACK HIJACKER IN BACK OF PLANE. SHOOTING BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AND THEY HAD DUCKED DOWN UNDER SEATS AND NOT SEEN ANYTHING ELSE UNTIL 45-60 SECONDS LATER WHEN EGYPTIAN COMMANDOS SHEPHERDED THEM OUT ONE AT A TIME. THERE HAD BEEN SHORT LULL IN FIRING.

BY TIME THEY DISEMBARKED ALL THREE HIJACKERS HAD DISAPPEARED. DESPITE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AT LEAST 50 SHOTS BEING FIRED THEY NOTED NO DMAMAGE FROM BULLETS ON AIRCRAFT. (COMMENT: FAA SECURITY TEAM MEMBER WAS TOLD WHEN PLANE REUTRNEED TO CAIRO AIRPORT THAT ONLY DAMAGE HAD BEEN SLASHED TIRES AND PLANE WAS AIRWORTHY WITHOUTH FURTHER REPAIRS.) GREENES NOTED AS HAVE OTHERS, LOTS OF BLOOD IN FRONT OF PLANE AND ON RAMP. THEY ADDED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF BLOOD NEAR ENTRY TO TERMINAL AND THEY WERE TOLD ONE OF HIJACKERS HAD BROKEN AWAY AND TRIED TO ESCAPE CAUSING COMMANDOES TO SHOOT HIM.

3. NEITHER MURRAYS, GREENES NOR EMBASSY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OTHER AMERICANS ON PLANE.

4. GREENES WERE FULL OF PRAISE FOR EGYPTIANS AND PLEANTY SURPRISED BY WARMTH AND APOLOGIES OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL AND BYSTANDERS AFTER RESCUE. MRS. GREENE SAID PRIMIN SALIM HAD TOLD HER THAT HE AHD REQUESTED HIJACKERS DURING NEGOTIATIONS TO RELEASE ALL FOREIGNERS AND LEAVE EGYPTIANS ON PLANE SINCE TOURISM AND EGYPT'S REPUTATION FOR HOSPITALITY WERE AT STAKE. HIJACKERS HAD REFUSED. GREENE SAID AIRCRAFT CAPTIAN HAD SUFFERED SLIGHT KNIFE SCRATCH ON HAND DURING SCUFFLE.

5. DIRECTOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SHAWKAT TOLD DAO AUGUST 26 THAT ONE STEWARDESS HAD ALSO RECEIVED MINOR BULLET WOUND.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 11545 271500Z

HE SIAD THAT ALL THREE HIJACKERS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL AND NO LONGER IN SERIOUS CONDITION. LIBYAN CONNECTION SHAWKAT SAID, WAS SO FAR LIMITED TO ONE HIJACKERS SPENDING FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST IN LIBYA. HE BELIEVED HIJACKERS' MOTIVE WAS STRICTLY MONEY. HIJACKERS DEALTH TWITH IBYAN BU THE NAME OF SAID (UNKNOWN TO DMI).

6. FONOMIN FAHMY TOLD AMABSSADOR AUGUST 26 THAT GOE

HAD DECIDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIJACKING TOOK PLACE THAT
PLANE WOULD NOT LEAVE LUXOR AND TROOPS WOULD STORM IT
IF NECESSARY EVEN IF IT MEANT CASUALITIES AMONG PASSENGERS.
FAHMY SAID THIS WAS FIRM GOE POLICY AND DATES FROM
NOVEMBER 1974, WHEN IT WAS THOUGHT BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANE
THAT WENT TO TUNISIA MIGHT LAND IN CAIRO. FAHMY DECIDEDLY
PLEASED WITH OUTCOME.
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0016
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalie.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT AIR HIJACKING
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, US, (GREENE, ARNOLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006